

App. No. 10/799,204  
Amdt. Dated August 7, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2006

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
coating a surface of a thermally conductive heat spreader body with an organic surface protectant; and  
coupling the heat spreader body ~~directly~~ to a thermal interface material, the thermal interface material being in ~~direct~~ contact with an integrated circuit (IC) die.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises ~~immersing~~ dipping the heat spreader body in a ~~dipping~~ solution comprising the organic surface protectant.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the organic surface protectant comprises one or more triazole compounds and/or salts thereof.
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal interface material is a solder or solder-polymer hybrid.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising coating ~~[[a]] the~~ surface of the heat spreader body with ~~an intervening layer~~ a material before coating with the organic surface protectant.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the heat spreader body comprises ~~copper~~ a thermally conductive metal or alloy.
- 8-23. (canceled)

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24. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises spraying the heat spreader body with a solution of the organic surface protectant.
25. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein the material is nickel or paladium.
26. (new) The method of claim 1, prior to coating the surface of the heat spreader body, further comprising:  
cleaning the heat spreader body;  
micro-etching the heat spreader body in an acid solution to provide a texture to the surface; and  
rinsing the heat spreader body in one of water and acid.
27. (new) The method of claim 7, after coating the surface of the heat spreader body, further comprising:  
rinsing the coated heat spreader body in de-ionized water; and  
drying the coated heat spreader body.